

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ALGIER 00995 281446Z
ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05
CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-04 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-02 TRSE-00
H-02 INR-10 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
NSF-02 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15
/143 W

-----012858 281510Z /53

R 281338Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO USMISSION GENEVA
USINFO WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8277
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS ALGIERS 0995

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN PLOS AG
SUBJECT: ALGERIAN PRESS COVERAGE OF SEVENTH SESSION OF LOS
CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 070173

GENEVA FOR WINSTON; USINFO FOR IOP/M, IPS, IBS, INA

1. ALGERIAN PRESS OF PAST FEW DAYS HAS BEEN ANNOUNCING
MARCH 28 OPENING OF SEVENTH SESSION OF LOS CONFERENCE
IN GENEVA IN ROUTINE FASHION.

2. IN ONLY EDITORIAL REACTION TO DATE, LEADING GOVERN-
MENT-OWNED ALGIERS DAILY IN FRENCH "EL-MOUDJAHID"
COMMENTS MARCH 28: "ANALYSIS OF DEBATES AND ATTITUDES
OF STATES AT PREVIOUS SESSIONS REVEALS THAT, AS FAR AS
SEA IS CONCERNED, ALL NATIONS, WITH OR WITHOUT COASTS,
HAVE A STAKE IN WHICH GEO-ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS ARE
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NOT DECISIVE. HEGEMONISTIC PRETENTIONS AND POLITICAL
AND STRATEGIC PREOCCUPATIONS OF CERTAIN POWERS ARE
BARELY HIDDEN BEHIND THEIR PROCLAIMED SEARCH FOR
'COMMON GOOD' AND THEIR ORTHODOXY OF LANGUAGE AND
ALL PURPOSE FORMULAS. SHARPNESS OF DISCUSSIONS ON
PENDING QUESTIONS RE EXPLOITATION OF SEA BEDS OUTSIDE
LIMITS OF NATIONAL JURISDICTION AND RE NATURE AND

COMPETENCE OF INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITY ENTRUSTED WITH
THEIR MANAGEMENT IS SINGULARLY REVEALING OF PRETEN-
SIONS OF MARITIME POWERS IN ATTENDANCE UNILATERAL
ACTS OF CERTAIN STATES AND AMERICAN THREAT TO WROK
OUTSIDE UN CONFERENCE IN EXPLOITATION OF SEA BEDS....
CAN DO NOTHING BUT CREATE SITUATIONS OF CONFLICT....
IT SHOULD BE CLEAR THAT THERE CAN BE NO LEGAL EXPLOI-
TATION OF SEA BED RESOURCES OUTSIDE NEW AND MUTUALLY
AGREED CONVENTION. TO DO OTHERWISE WOULD BE TO GIVE
DEEDS MORE IMPORTANCE THAN LAW AND WOULD AROUSE STRONT
OPPOSITION. SUCH USE OF SEA COULD NOT BE ACCOMODATED
TO GERNERAL PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND WOULD
LEND ITSELF STRONTLY TO ACT OF COLONIAL CONQUEST WITH
INEVITABLE CONFLICT-LADEN SEQUELS."STEPHAN

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